

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendments, Claims 1-31 and 33-35 are pending in the present application and remain in this application for prosecution. Claims 1-2, 8, 28-29, and 34 have been amended. Claim 32 has been cancelled. New claim 35 has been added.

Allowed Claims

Claims 25-27 stand allowed.

Telephone Interview of July 17, 2007

Applicants thank Examiner Cai for participating in the telephone interview with the undersigned and Mr. Henrik Olsen on July 17, 2007, in which claim 1 was discussed in connection with U.S. Patent No. 6,144,748 (Kerns) and U.S. Patent No. 6,049,894 (Gates). Although no agreement was reached, Applicants agreed to clarify the digital interface feature of claim 1 and its location within the electro-mechanical or electro-acoustical component of the portable communication device.

Neither Kerns nor Gates nor their combination discloses or suggests an electro-mechanical or electro-acoustical component disposed within a housing of said portable communication device, said electro-mechanical or electro-acoustical component having a housing in which a digital interface and a bus controller are disposed, said digital interface being in communication with said system bus and with said bus controller, said system bus including at least two signal-carrying lines, one of said lines carrying a digital signal and at least one other intended signal between said master component and said digital interface of said electro-mechanical or electro-acoustical component, said one of said lines being termed a composite line, said bus controller formatting a signal of said component according to said bus protocol for communication over at least said composite line of said system bus.

Neither Kerns nor Gates nor their combination discloses or suggests wherein said portable communication device is one of a hearing instrument, a headset, a personal digital assistant, and a portable telephone, said master component being powered by a battery to which one of said at least two signal-carrying lines is coupled.

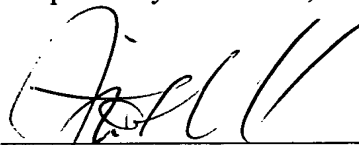
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

A check to cover the fee for a Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. It is believed that no additional fees are presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 10-0447 (247161-000041USPT) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

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Respectfully submitted,



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